

AETC News Clips



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18 Sep 01

Alamo City kin waits for word on Army officer

Wagner was in Pentagon

BY SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner called San Antonio home.

On Monday, her family held out hope that she might emerge from a Pentagon shattered by a suicide-plane attack and come home to a joyous reunion.

"We are joined with Americans and other members of the Defense Department and Army communities waiting for information concerning Lt. Col. Karen Wagner," the family said in a prepared statement issued Monday by Fort Sam Houston.

Wagner, 40, worked in the Army's Personnel Command section of the Pentagon, which was badly damaged when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into it a week ago this morning.

She has been listed as missing or unaccounted for by the Defense Department.

In all, 188 people could not be accounted for after the blast, including 124 who normally work in the Pentagon and 64 aboard the airliner, said Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, the Pentagon's top spokesman.

So far, 97 remains have been recovered and transported to Dover AFB, Del., for identification, the Defense Department reported Monday night.

Eleven have been identified.

"We have no indications that there are any of the victims still alive," he said, noting that sophisticated thermal and acoustic detection equipment has revealed no signs of life.

Yet while Quigley said he

Lt. Col. Karen J.

Wagner was executive officer and commander of D Company, 187th Medical Battalion, at Fort Sam. It was one of two Alamo City postings in her 17-year career.

"can't point to anything that gives me reason to hope" that anyone survived, rescue teams continue working and "they're not giving up any hope. They know the chances are slim, but there isn't one out there that would tell you the chances are zero."

Wagner worked as medical personnel officer with the office of the Army Surgeon General.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel in August, she entered the Army on Feb. 14, 1984, with an ROTC appointment after graduation from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

She also holds a master's degree in health services administration from Webster University.

Wagner previously worked as adjutant for the 85th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Fort Lee, Va., and executive officer and commander of D Company, 187th Medical Battalion, at Fort Sam.

It was one of two Alamo City postings in her 17-year career.

Wagner's mother lives in San Antonio.

She has two brothers and a sister in other cities.

sigc@express-news.net

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Pilot given loving farewell

Thousands attend service

By KEN MAGUIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DRACUT, Mass. — An airline pilot killed in the terrorist attacks was remembered Monday as a dedicated aviator and avid farmer by thousands who attended his memorial.

"Some teasingly, and lovingly, called him 'John Deere Johnny,'" said Jim Ogonowski, the brother of John Ogonowski, captain of one of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center.

"United Americans standing tall. That's what John sees today when he looks down. Our spirit stands unbroken. John would be so proud."

About 2,000 people — including 400 uniformed employees of American Airlines — attended.

Ogonowski, a 50-year-old father of three daughters, was the captain of American Flight 11, which was hijacked from the Boston airport along with a United jetliner. Terrorists crashed the airliners into the twin towers.

Ogonowski had been a pilot for American for 23 years.

"He was the consummate aviator," said John Panarelli, 48, who drove more than 20 hours from Georgia. Ogonowski had been Panarelli's flight instructor.

"It was always a pleasant surprise to see his name on the flight list," said flight attendant Gynni Neri, who called Ogonowski "the sweetest man in the world."

Ogonowski also worked to preserve open space and leased parts of his 150-acre farm to Cambodian immigrants so they could grow produce native to their homeland.

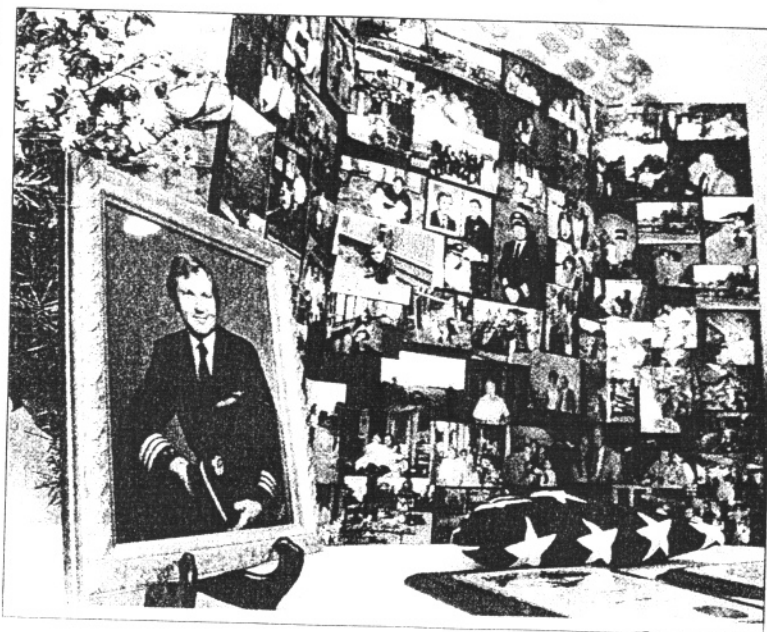
A memorial for Michael R. Horrocks, 38, the first officer on the United jet that hit the Trade Center, was also held Monday. A rifle salute was followed by the sounding of taps.

"He had a real zest for community and family," said the Rev. Ralph Chieffo of St. Mary Magdalen Church in Upper Providence Township in Pennsylvania.



ELISE AMENDOLA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Margaret Ogonowski, widow of pilot John Ogonowski, is flanked by her daughters Mary, 11, Caroline, 14, and Laura, 16, at funeral services Monday in Dracut, Mass.



A portrait of American Airlines Flight 11 pilot John Ogonowski rests on a table surrounded by a photo memorial, plaques and a folded American flag at a memorial service at St. Francis Church in Dracut, Mass., on Monday. Ogonowski was the pilot of the American jetliner that was hijacked out of Boston's Logan Airport.

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MICHAEL PIDGEON/ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Detained doctor's training nearly done

UTHSC colleagues still stunned by physician's link to probe of attacks.

By CINDY TUMIEL
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A San Antonio doctor being detained by the FBI in connection with last week's terrorist attacks was days away from taking written exams to become certified in his medical specialty of radiology.

Dr. Al-Badr Al-Hazmi, 34, was nearing the end of a demanding four-year radiology training program, which focuses on technologies, such as X-ray and ultrasound, used to diagnose patients, said Dr. Gerald Dodd, chairman of radiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Al-Hazmi, a Saudi national, had been a resident physician at the university since 1997. He was scheduled to be in Dallas last Friday to take written exams administered by the American Board of Radiology, the organization that certifies doctors to practice radiology in North America.

Al-Hazmi was last seen at the university Sept. 10, the day before hijacked airliners flew into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He attended the daily, hourlong conference that the uni-

versity's 24 radiology residents attend for lecture and case study, Dodd said. The resident sat in the front of the room, as he usually did, and paid close attention to the lecture, Dodd said.

The next morning, Al-Hazmi did not show up for his scheduled rotation at Wilford Hall Medical Center. But hospital and university officials didn't think much of it, since residents commonly miss shifts as their exams draw close, Dodd said.

Health science center President Francisco Cigarroa got official confirmation from the FBI on Monday that Al-Hazmi is being detained in New York and is being questioned in connection with the terrorist attacks.

The resident doctor has not been charged, but he was being held on matters related to his immigration status, the FBI said last week. The FBI released no further details about Al-Hazmi's detention Monday.

University colleagues described him as a competent and professional doctor and a devout Muslim who paused to pray daily as prescribed by his faith. Al-Hazmi's detention by the FBI left university officials stunned, Dodd said.

"There's nothing suspicious about this gentleman," Dodd said. "Nothing alarmed me at all."

Cigarroa, a surgeon, recalled a

professional encounter with Al-Hazmi, who was on rotation at University Hospital when Cigarroa performed a liver transplant last year. The resident was called in after the surgery to do some ultrasound tests on the transplanted liver.

"He was very, very cordial and professional," Cigarroa said. "He performed his job very well."

Dodd said Al-Hazmi, his wife and two children did not socialize much with other residents. But he did have close ties to a Muslim mosque near the medical center, said Mohammed Choudary, president of the Islamic Center of San Antonio.

"He was a nice fellow," Choudary said.

Al-Hazmi and his family attended the mosque for more than three years, Choudary said, and the doctor regularly helped with medical camps the mosque ran for the community twice a year.

"He always was there," Choudary said. "He was very active. It kind of shocked me and surprised me when I heard he was detained."

University officials said Monday that the FBI seized a computer from the school's medical library Saturday. The computer had Internet access and was publicly accessible to library users.

Various spellings of the doctor's name have been used since

his name surfaced in connection with the attacks. The spelling now used in this article is being taken directly from his résumé, which health science center officials released Monday.

In that résumé, submitted to the health science center in August 1996, Al-Hazmi expressed his desire to study radiology.

"Following completion of my specialty training, I will return to Saudi Arabia to provide health care to my countrymen," he stated in the document.

Al-Hazmi's medical training was being paid for by Saudi Aramco, the Saudi Arabian national oil company that also operates medical facilities in that country. Al-Hazmi worked at two Aramco medical facilities in Saudi Arabia after graduating from the medical school at King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia, according to his résumé.

Al-Hazmi was one of hundreds of students, from a variety of academic disciplines, that the Saudi company sponsors annually in the United States, said Rob Arndt, a spokesman for Aramco Service Co., a United States subsidiary of the Saudi oil company.

Arndt said the Houston-based service company is in touch with the FBI about Al-Hazmi and is "cooperating fully."

ctumiel@express-news.net



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Al-Hazmi's profile

Following is an excerpt from Dr. Al-Badr M. H. Al-Hazmi's first-person curriculum vitae that is on file with the University of Texas Health Science Center. Al-Hazmi, a radiology resident physician at the school, is being held by federal authorities in New York in connection with the recent terrorist attacks. It's unclear what, if any, role the physician might have played.



Career goal:

■ I am a Saudi Arab physician with a career goal of becoming a specialist in radiology. Following completion of my specialty training, I will return to Saudi Arabia to provide health care to my countrymen.

Education:

■ Aug. 7, 1991 — Medical degree from King Abdulaziz University Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Honors:

■ 1988 — Awarded honorarium for being active in helping poor patients who visited the hospital, fourth year of medical school.

Continuing medical education:

■ Nov. 1995 to June 1996 — review of basic sciences and clinical sciences at Tulane University Medical Center in New Orleans.

License:

■ Dec. 26, 1993 — Licensed to practice medicine at Saudi Aramco (Saudi oil company) Hospitals, Saudi Arabia.

Experience:

■ 1993 – 1996 — Physician at Saudi Aramco's Dhahran Health

■ 1992 – 1993 — Resident in internal medicine at King Fahd Central Hospital, Gizan, Saudi Arabia

Personal:

■ Date of Birth: Oct. 16, 1966

■ Marital status: Married

■ Dependents: Two children, ages 3 and 1.

■ Citizenship: Saudi Arabian

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Express-News: America in Agony

Market takes a hit

By Bill Day

Express-News business writer

Web Posted : 09/18/2001

Skittish investors pushed stock prices sharply lower Monday in the first trading day since last Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The Dow Jones industrial average suffered its worst one-day point loss in four years and closed below 9000 for the first time since December 1998. Other indexes also dropped quickly after the opening bell and stayed down.

The losses could have been worse, but the Federal Reserve cut the short-term federal funds interest rate from 3.5 percent to 3 percent.

It was the Fed's eighth interest-rate cut this year and the third to occur between scheduled meetings.

Major banks immediately matched the Fed's action, dropping their prime interest rates by a half percentage point. The European Central Bank and central banks in Canada and Switzerland also cut key interest rates in what was seen as a coordinated effort to restrict the financial damage of last week's tragedies.

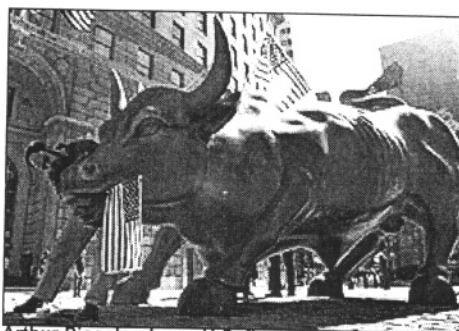
But the steps couldn't offset investors' desire to sell stocks they believe will be adversely affected by the attacks and their aftermath.

"I'm not surprised the markets sold off," said David Komet of San Antonio's Komet Asset Management.

"I think pretty much everyone expected something like that."

The Dow fell 684.81 points to 8920.70, a loss of 7.12 percent. The Nasdaq composite lost 115.82 points, or 6.82 percent, to close at 1579.55.

<http://news.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?xla=saen&xlb=987&xlc=299247&xld=987>



Arthur Piccolo places U.S. flags on the Charging Bull of Wall Street statue Monday as trading resumed.

Photo by Edward A. Ornelas/Express-News

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Broader indexes' losses were slightly lower. The S&P 500 dropped 53.77 points, or 4.92 percent, to 1038.77.

The Wilshire 5000 lost 513.31 points, or 5.08 percent, to 9590.69.

Airline stocks were hardest hit, but other sectors suffered, too.

Automobile stocks lost about 13 percent of their overall value, and the S&P Insurance Index fell nearly 5 percent. Insurer AIG lost about 4.4 percent of its value.

Major financial companies also lost ground. Bank of America Corp.'s stock dropped by 5.72 percent. Citigroup lost 6.71 percent.

Despite the steep losses, brokers claimed a victory in the fact that the markets were open for business less than a week after the destruction of the World Trade Center ravaged some of Wall Street's most prestigious firms.

Stock trading volumes were much higher than normal Monday, but the markets' communication network — some of it patched together just before trading opened — handled trades without collapsing.

"On our brokerage side, our call volume was up 300 (percent) to 400 percent, and trades were up 350 percent from normal," said Chris Claus, president of USAA Investment Management Co. "Three of four trades were a buy. The retail investor behaved today."

In USAA's mutual funds, sellers outnumbered buyers by about 2-to-1, Claus said, but the dollar amounts between the two groups nearly equaled each other.

That meant institutional investors, such as big investment companies and pension funds, did most of the selling.

"At some point they'll reinvest, but they may not have figured out where to do it today," Claus said.

A few industries, such as defense contractors and domestic oil explorers, benefited from the sentiment that military action in the Middle East is likely. Gold prices also rose, though some of that effect could be seasonal.

"A rise in September and October is traditional," said Frank Holmes, CEO

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More bodies found in channel

By Alison Gregor

Express-News Rio Grande Bureau

Web Posted : 09/18/2001

PORT ISABEL — The death toll reached five as authorities recovered two more bodies and pulled three cars Monday from the channel under the broken Queen Isabella Causeway, including a smashed red pickup containing the body of a local fire marshal.

A fifth body was found in the murky water, but recovery workers were unable to remove it. Two bodies were recovered Saturday, after an early morning accident in which a string of four barges slammed into the bridge, toppling a 160-foot section and sending several cars into the water, more than 80 feet below.

Texas Department of Public Safety Lt. Laurencio Saenz said authorities suspect at least eight people died in the accident, and the Coast Guard announced that it is launching a formal investigation.

Search and recovery efforts have been complicated by the concrete and steel rebar from another 80-foot section of the bridge that tumbled down hours after the initial accident.

Lt. Lynn Dixon, head of the Department of Public Safety's 14-man dive team, said the recovery mission is dangerous.

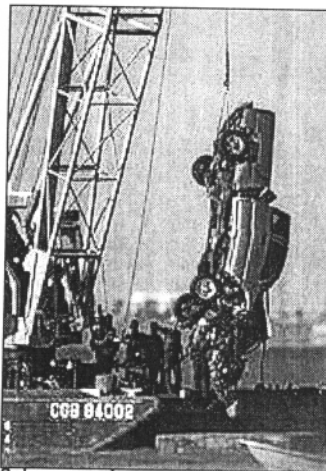
"There's a lot more stuff than I had ever anticipated," he said.

- Freakish mishap not anticipated
- Eerie quiet falls on deserted South Padre Island



Students from Garriga Elementary School in Port Isabel in life jackets board a ferry for their ride home to South Padre Island on Monday. Gov. Rick Perry said repairs to the bridge could take 60 to 120 days.

Photo by Delcia Lopez/Express-News



Salvage workers remove a pickup from beneath the broken section of the Queen Isabella Causeway on Monday.

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"The visibility is 1 to 1/2 feet. I honestly couldn't tell you if there are any more cars down there."

Photo by Billy Calzada/Express-News

Saenz said at least four vehicles remain in the water and recovery operations will continue today.

Of the five confirmed deaths, four have been identified. They are Jaspar Saenz Hinojosa, 52; Stvan Francisco Rivas, 23, of Humble; Port Isabel Fire Marshal Robert Harris, 46; and Robin Leavell, 29.

Authorities also revised their figures for the number of people rescued after the accident from four to three.

The Coast Guard announced it has subpoenaed the five crew members of the tugboat Brown Water V to appear for questioning Monday.

"Due to the severity of the casualties, the U.S. Coast Guard is launching a formal investigation into the accident," said Chief Warrant Officer Rob Wyman, a Coast Guard spokesman.

He had no time estimate for the investigation, which will be led by the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Morgan City, La.

After releasing the names of tugboat relief captain David Fowler and captain Rocky Wilson yesterday, Coast Guard officials named the following crew members: Joe Blocker, Ross Valigura and Levie Old.

Fowler, described as an "experienced mariner," was at the tug's helm at the time of the crash.

Six Coast Guard investigators have been conducting the inquiry since Saturday's accident.

The company that owned the tug and barges, Brown Water Marine Service Inc. of Rockport, released a statement asserting that navigation lights were not on at the time of the accident.

Stephen Mosher, company president, said the tugboat struck an unmarked shoal within the channel, which pushed it off course.

But Coast Guard officials said Monday that the navigation lights were functioning and the channel had just been dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers two months ago.

Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa called the company's statement a "pretty lame excuse."

Though Coast Guard officials would say little about their investigation, what is known is that on the morning of the accident, the tide was higher

Questions or comments about the site?

Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



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OUR TURN

Hijackers literally attacked the world

President George W. Bush is making the case to the world that the monstrous crimes last week in New York City and Washington, D.C. were assaults not only on the United States but also on the civilized world as a whole.

He can bolster his case by pointing out that many people from many nations died in the *World Trade Center* attack.

The attack on other nations is more than theoretical.

The New York Times noted that more than 30 nations reported citizens killed or missing in the collapse of the buildings.

More than 150 Mexican nationals are missing in the devastation.

More than 100 British citizens and a like number of Russians most likely were trapped.

The newspaper reported high numbers also come from Germany, Belgium, Japan and South Korea, who had people active in the financial district. Many working in the service sector were from Mexico and Bangladesh.

As Jorge G. Castañeda, Mexico's foreign minister, told that nation's Senate Thursday, according to the Times, "These attacks were not only acts against the United States, against democracy and against civilization, they were also attacks

Citizens of more than 30 nations are missing in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

—◆—
against dozens, hundreds and perhaps thousands of Mexicans."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair echoed such sentiments.

In one sense, the World Trade Center is a cosmopolitan microcosm of the United States. It shows, in one more way, how interrelated the world has become.

People all over the world watched the tragedy unfold live and in living color. As in the United States, many doing business at the World Trade Center were able to use cell phones to call families overseas to say goodbye.

Thus, the extent of global connections was illustrated in all kinds of stunning ways.

The challenge for U.S. leadership will be to keep together the coalition of those outraged by last week's assaults.

As time goes by, civilized nations will need to be reminded of the stakes they share in bringing to justice those who attacked the world.



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FOCUS: RETALIATION

Enough is enough

There is not yet a word in the dictionary to describe the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001. Disbelief, sorrow, anger: I feel each of these emotions, but they do not adequately describe all that I feel.

I hope the U.S. government acts appropriately — and soon. Briefly put, enough is enough.

— Karen West-Burt

Educate, don't kill

I thank letter writer Anthony Limon Jr. ("Evil on both sides," Sunday) for his wise words.

President Bush's war against evil will only fuel future hatred and violence if we are unwilling to look at our own complicity. Many innocent civilians in the Middle East have been killed, but these deaths remain invisible or, worse, acceptable to us.

I am chilled to read in the New

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York Times that a poll indicates a high percentage of Americans support military action in other countries even if it results in the deaths of innocent civilians.

How are we any different from the terrorists if we accept the untimely deaths of civilians?

I have been profoundly moved by the show of sympathy and support from around the world, including the

Middle East. People everywhere have expressed a horror at the loss of innocent American lives. Are we not called to express the same to other peoples?

The grievous events Tuesday offer us an opportunity to look at the underlying causes of terrorism and consider more effective, long-range policies that will promote dialogue and peace.

We need to educate ourselves. How many of us know the complex history, cultures and experiences of the Middle East?

I pray we will be wise enough to seek solutions based on knowledge rather than merely exact vengeance.

— Moby Warren Phillips

This time, it won't work

Whatever happened to the concept "turn the other cheek"?

Sometimes it just doesn't work.

— Clay McGaughy

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FOCUS: TERROR HITS HOME

Vigilantes appalling

I was not overly shocked, but I was very much appalled at the cowardly vandalism at one of our citizen's restaurants early Thursday and the vandal's feeble attempt to justify the vandalism by calling 911 and announcing what had been done ("S.A. feeling the aftermath: Reprisals show alarming trend," Friday).

The owner of that restaurant is entitled to freedom. She should not be a target of such idiotic and deplorable actions simply because she comes from a different ethnic background.

It is my sincere hope that those responsible will be found and punished to the fullest extent of our laws.

— Lyle Kirk

Muslim offers prayers

As a convert to the Islamic faith, an American citizen and a teacher in San Antonio, I ask Allah to bless the families affected by the horrible tragedy in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania and to give us faith and courage to go on with our lives.

My prayer is also that Americans will not judge the Islamic world or hold all of us responsible for the actions of the sick fanatics who did this for their own selfish ends.

I pray for peace and understanding. America is a great country. I have practiced my faith here since 1974 and, for the most part, I have been accepted by many people of different races and faiths. My heart is heavy because it is never right to take the lives of innocent people. This is not supported by my faith.

I pray that those responsible will get the punishment they deserve in this life and in the hereafter.

— Malika Abdul-Jami

Bad as the terrorists

I have been crying since Tuesday, glued to the news. I am unable to cope with it all, especially those who retaliate against innocent people and send fake 911 calls. They should be dealt with as harshly as the terrorists!



JOHN DAVENPORT/STAFF

A reader hopes whoever vandalized Rashin Mazaheri's restaurant will be "punished to the fullest extent of our laws."

We are in God's hands. He will bless us and we will win!

— Pam Freemyer

Dowd ridiculous

Re: Maureen Dowd's Friday column, "What happened to the government?":

Ms. Dowd, you are an idiot! I guess you and Peter Jennings can't help yourself; both of you felt it necessary to imply that our leaders are cowards because you didn't know where they were every minute Tuesday.

Quit wasting space and airtime with ridiculous implications.

— Kent Loessberg

Broken? Not at all

Wednesday afternoon, my husband and I attended my seventh-grader's football game. You could tell many parents didn't feel like being there. We felt oppressed by the terrorist attacks but wanted to give our kids a sense of normalcy.

A funny thing happened on that sunny afternoon. By doing what we did not feel like doing, we eventually felt better. As we watched my son catch a 15-yard pass, all the parents yelled together, "Go, Matt, go!" As he broke a tackle and ran 20 yards for his first touchdown, we stood together and clapped and cheered.

I smiled up into the blue sky and thought, "Take that, terrorists! You may think you've broken us, but we're enjoying a sunny day together, laughing, while you hide in darkness."

"We're teaching our children about sportsmanship, honor, resilience and love while you train yours in the ways of hatred, fear and destruction. No, we're not the ones who are broken — not at all."

— Shannon Hawkins

Former workplace gone

I continue to be horrified by the video reruns of Tuesday's attacks. I retired from the Port Authority in New York and New Jersey after a 34-year career, 22 of them on the 65th floor of Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. I loved going to work at the center, and I feel so violated when I realize those buildings are gone.

— Joseph J. Windisch

Citizens, be alert

The sanctity of American freedom has now been violated in a way that changes the way we live forever.

Many Americans want to believe this horrible incident won't happen again. Stringent security for air travel will cause the vermin that committed this atrocity to seek other means.

Vehicle bombs are simple to use, any place, any time. Or a single-engine aircraft flying over a city unleashing viral agents. Or toxins placed in water supplies. The list is endless, and so are the numbers of fanatics willing to carry out such activities.

Killing Osama bin Laden and his band of maniacs will not keep the United States secure. No amount of intelligence-gathering, military might or police forces can preclude terrorism.

We are responsible for ensuring the safety of ourselves and our fellow Americans. Take the time to observe what is going on around you, and should you see something suspicious, phone the police.

— Darrell Colley,
Universal City



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EDITORIAL PAGE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2001



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Airmen wait, wonder

Pair planning to wed may face new duty

By RENI WINTER
THE SUN HERALD

BILOXI — Their wedding plans hadn't gotten very far when events happened last week that could change everything.

She knew she wanted a big fanfare on March 29, 2002. He knew who his best man and some of his groomsmen would be.

Now, Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Eric Brans, 31, with the 255th Air Control Squadron, and Senior Airman Rebecca Young, 22, with the 81st Communications Squadron, are thinking about going to a justice of the peace for a quick wedding before either has to deploy for Operation Noble Eagle.

"Most of the wedding party is in the military," Brans said at a candlelight vigil friends held on the beach in Biloxi this weekend. "One of the groomsmen is in Bosnia. We just don't know what's going to happen."

Brans' best man, Senior Airman Richard Spring, 25, is an X-ray technician with the 81st Training Wing Medical Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base.

"I'm on two-hour notice," Richard said. "My bags are packed and I'm ready to

deploy. We might not all be here for the wedding."

One of the groomsmen, Airman 1st Class Benjamin Guerra, 20, also with the 81st Communications Squadron, just shrugs at the uncertainty. He, like the others, is eager to get the job done.

"I grew up close to the border (of Mexico), and I've seen how bad it can be outside of America," said Guerra, whose last name means war in Spanish.

The four are Wiccans, a pagan sect, and are lay leaders of the Wiccan study group at Keesler. Because their religion is outside the boundary of the mainstream, they said they are eager to help fight the extremists who killed more than 5,000 American lives in the name of religion.

Their friend, Denise De Sader, a former Marine and a Wiccan, set up the vigil beneath an American flag on a pole stuck in the sand. She said she would re-enlist now if she didn't have two young children.

"Since we've been out here, a lot of people have stopped and brought candles also," De Sader said. "A lot of diverse religions have come by — Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Jewish, Buddhist. All we care about is that we're all American. That's our whole point."

Reni Winter can be reached at 896-0538 or at rbwinter@sunherald.com.



TIM ISBELL/THE SUN HERALD

Airman 1st Class Victor Sparrow and Airman Chase Thompson bow their heads in prayer at the Triangle Chapel at Keesler Air Force Base.

Triangle Chapel

BILOXI — "Somos hermanos, somos familia, por la misma sangre del cordero, si amen," the visitors sang under the leadership of Spanish minister David Oliver. "We are brothers, we are family, by the same blood of the lamb."

Oliver chose the song to close Sunday's Spanish church service, the opening event for Hispanic Heritage Month at Keesler Air Force Base.

Oliver, born in America to Puerto Rican parents and raised in Puerto Rico, led about 100 people in Spanish and English prayers and song.

Five of the six children of Maj. Eddie Lee Felder Jr., who are home-schooled by their mother, Valerie, sang a medley of Spanish and English songs and verses.

Oliver gave a sermon in Spanish, telling everyone to pass on their Spanish heritage and a strong spiritual heritage to their children for future generations. He also gave thanks to America for welcoming Latinos, and other cultures of the world, with open arms.

Marla Ochoa, president of the base Hispanic Heritage Committee, closed the service, saying, "Dios te bendiga (God bless you). We stand united."

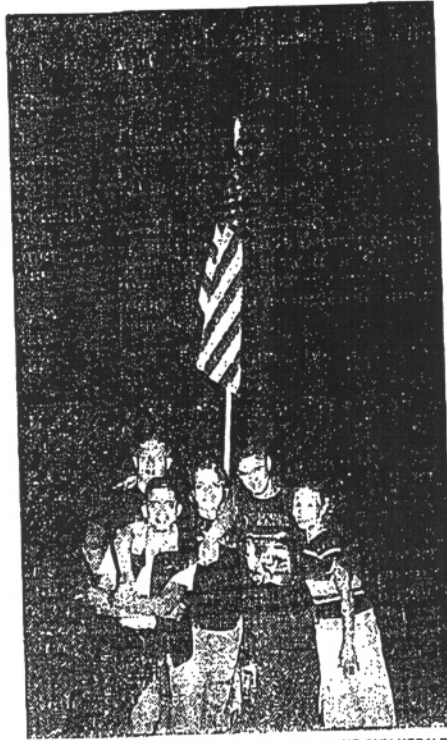
— RENI WINTER

Show your patriotism

■ I am embarrassed at the lack of patriotism shown within the military housing section I live in. The American flag is available to all housing families to display and yet a rare few have the flag flying. During this tragic time, it is imperative that we show our support and camaraderie to our country. You are active duty members! Fly the Stars and Stripes!

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DEAN WINTER/THE SUN HERALD

Five friends, all members of the military, celebrate their patriotism and wonder what the future holds at a candlelight vigil on the beach in Biloxi. From left are Staff Sgt. Eric Brans, Senior Airman Richard Spring, Senior Airman Rebecca Young, Airman 1st Class Benjamin Guerra and Barbie Coen, who enlisted in the Army only six days before the terrorist attacks.

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State military is poised for call-ups

By RENI WINTER
THE SUN HERALD

Mississippi military bases remain at a high level of terrorism alert as leaders await orders and troops stay ready to leave on short notice.

By the end of the day Saturday, no military units in any of the services in the state had received orders, although earlier in the day, President Bush announced that America is at war.

Bush authorized the call-up of up to 50,000 National Guard members and reservists to active duty, but none were immediately called from Mississippi, according to Lt. Col. Tim Powell, public information officer for the Adjutant General's Office, Mississippi National Guard.

A member of the Naval Reserve's Personnel Mobilization Team in Gulfport has been contacted but had not been put in action.

"We're on standby right now," said Bryant White, whose job would be to help notify reservists of being called up. "I believe they'll be calling me real soon." Air Force, Navy, Marines and

active-duty Army also waited, preparing themselves and their families for the probability that they will have to answer a call to arms against Osama bin Laden, whom Bush has named as the prime suspect in the terrorism attacks that killed more than 5,000 people Tuesday in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Powell said the atmosphere Saturday afternoon at National Guard headquarters and at Camp Shelby was "very, very quiet."

"None of our units have received a warning order to activate," Powell said. "These 50,000 that President Bush OK'd are for support in the ports, medical support and homeland defense."

Homeland defense is a new concept

for the Guard, whose usual United States deployments are related to natural disasters or domestic problems such as riots, not a foreign enemy on American soil.

Operation Noble Eagle

Reserve and National Guard services are mobilizing 35,000 troops in response to President Bush's call for up to 50,000. Specific units haven't been announced. The breakdown:

Army	10,000.
Air Force	13,000.
Navy	3,000.
Marines	7,500.
Coast Guard	2,000.

— SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The different services have recommended a call-up of about 35,000 guard and reserve members, officials said. DOD has named the military response to the terrorist attacks "Operation Noble Eagle."

Naval Station Pascagoula public information director Stacey Byington said the Naval Station also remains at a high level of alert, but no orders to deploy have been received.

"We haven't received anything like that at the moment," she said late Saturday. If and when ships are deployed from Naval Station Pascagoula, their departure and destination won't be announced in advance, for security reasons."

"We can't talk ship's movement. That's classified," she said. "Normally, when there's an operation going on, most of that's classified until after it's taken place. We haven't received any new guidance since the end of the week."

Keesler Air Force Base personnel are attempting to maintain a semblance of life as usual, resuming recreation and normal training. There is a subtle tension, a sense of vigilance, readiness, even eagerness to take the next step.

"We're ready to take any action or deploy anywhere our headquarters tells us," said Master Sgt. Eugene Bird, Keesler public affairs specialist. "Traditionally, our role has been to replenish our forces by training them. There are lots of people here with lots of skills that could be utilized. We heard on the news today that the president said we will go to war. Everyone here is ready to do their part and awaiting further instructions."

Patrick Peterson also contributed to this story. Reni Winter can be reached at 896-0538 or at rwinter@sunherald.com.

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Sunday, 16 September 2001

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Retired military can be our best retention tool

I was a mere lad when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Never will I forget that day, huddling with my father and mother by the radio. We sat there in tears as the news unfolded of the deaths of our U.S. military personnel in Hawaii. We listened to our president's stirring speech declaring war against the Empire of Japan. Years later I went on to proudly serve 20 years in our nation's Air Force.

This week, I was again proud of my president and his speech to bring to justice the perpetrators of this dastardly deed and the countries that harbor them.

His campaign promise to beef up the military now faces him as a reality. A strong military depends on dynamic leadership, including those who go on to become leaders in other fields, such as Gen. Colin Powell and Sen. John McCain. Leaders of this quality are the ones younger members look up to and, in times such as this, they are the ones with the ability to make sane and rational decisions.

One of the greatest weapons the country has in the fight for retention of such leaders is the retired military. Now is the time for this

group to step forward and, in the words of John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

As a member of the Military Retirees Grass Roots Group, trying to get our health benefits restored, I and thousands more retirees across this great nation would like nothing better than to fulfill the role of retention spokesman. But we must be able to speak with conviction, and so I ask Congress to enact legislation to fulfill this nation's promise to us.

As in 1941, I again cried on Sept. 11, 2001, for American victims of an enemy attack, but now I am 70 years old.

THOMAS E. HARRISON
Ocean Springs

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Opinion

18

Quit whining

■ I am a medic at Keesler Air Force Base. I am sorry for the inconvenience you have experienced at the medical center over the last couple of days. However, your plight is secondary to the fact that I may be called to assist the victims of the recent terrorist attacks at a moment's notice. Quit whining. This is a national crisis during which we must expect delays in things we take for granted. At least the

citizens of this great nation have the availability of doctors and medications.

This was a real situation

■ In reference to the Sound Off from the person who was angry about parts of Keesler being closed off: This person really needs to get a life. As for his little comment, "If we were to ever have a *real* situation..." how much more serious does he need it to be? I am sure the people involved in these tragedies think of it as *very* real. Maybe he should start thinking of someone other than himself.

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Sound Off

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Keesler dentists set to go

Experts accept solemn duty of identifying bodies

By RENI WINTER
THE SUN HERALD

KEESLER AFB — Members of the 81st Training Wing Dental Squadron will cling to a few simple thoughts as they struggle through their gruesome task ahead.

The group of dentists and dental technicians, members of the squadron's forensic identification team, prepared mentally, spiritually and physically on Thursday for its upcoming deployment to the East Coast to help identify the remains of thousands of victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

"You will be seeing things you've never seen before, and our emotions will be tested," Air Force Chaplain Dean Hall, 41, told the group at the deployment center on base. "Keep an eye on each other. Don't feel the need to be supermen and superwomen."

"Let your commander know if you need to stop for a while. You will have a chaplain there for support. I commend you for what you're doing for this country. Keep an eye on each other, ease."

Men and women who have had little experience in forensic identification will be at the time scene of the worst violent act ever committed on American soil.

"This is such a tragedy, and it's going to be very difficult," said Lt. Col. Julie Collins, 38, a pediatric dentist. "I've done one of one individual before. I learned that what we're doing benefits the family, so they don't feel overwhelmed with a



DAVID PURDY/THE SUN HERALD

National Guard JAG officer Richard E. Grove, left, talks Thursday with Lt. Col. Julie Collins, far right, a pediatric dentist, about how she wants to set up her will and other legal matters while she is on deployment. Collins and members of the 81st Training Wing Dental Squadron from Keesler Air Force Base are going to the East Coast to help identify the remains of the victims of terrorist attacks.

false sense of hope. I also know that it's only possible for me to do this with my faith to see me through there."

Faith in God and the knowledge that in their own way they are helping families may be all the squadron members can do to help them face the hundreds of bodies they will see once they arrive.

Collins' task may be particularly rough, as she expects to be asked to help identify children who died in the explosions.

"At the time, when I see the body of a child in front of me, I'm just going to have to think,

'God, help me through this.'"

Keesler's dental squadron was chosen to help with the arduous but crucial task because the 81st Medical Group is part of the military's 911 response system, according to Col. Dennis Purcy, squadron commander.

"We have the largest training program in the country, and with 35 dentists, we have plenty of expertise," he said.

Every year, members of the squadron complete forensic identification training, helping to identify the remains of Coast residents who die violent deaths.

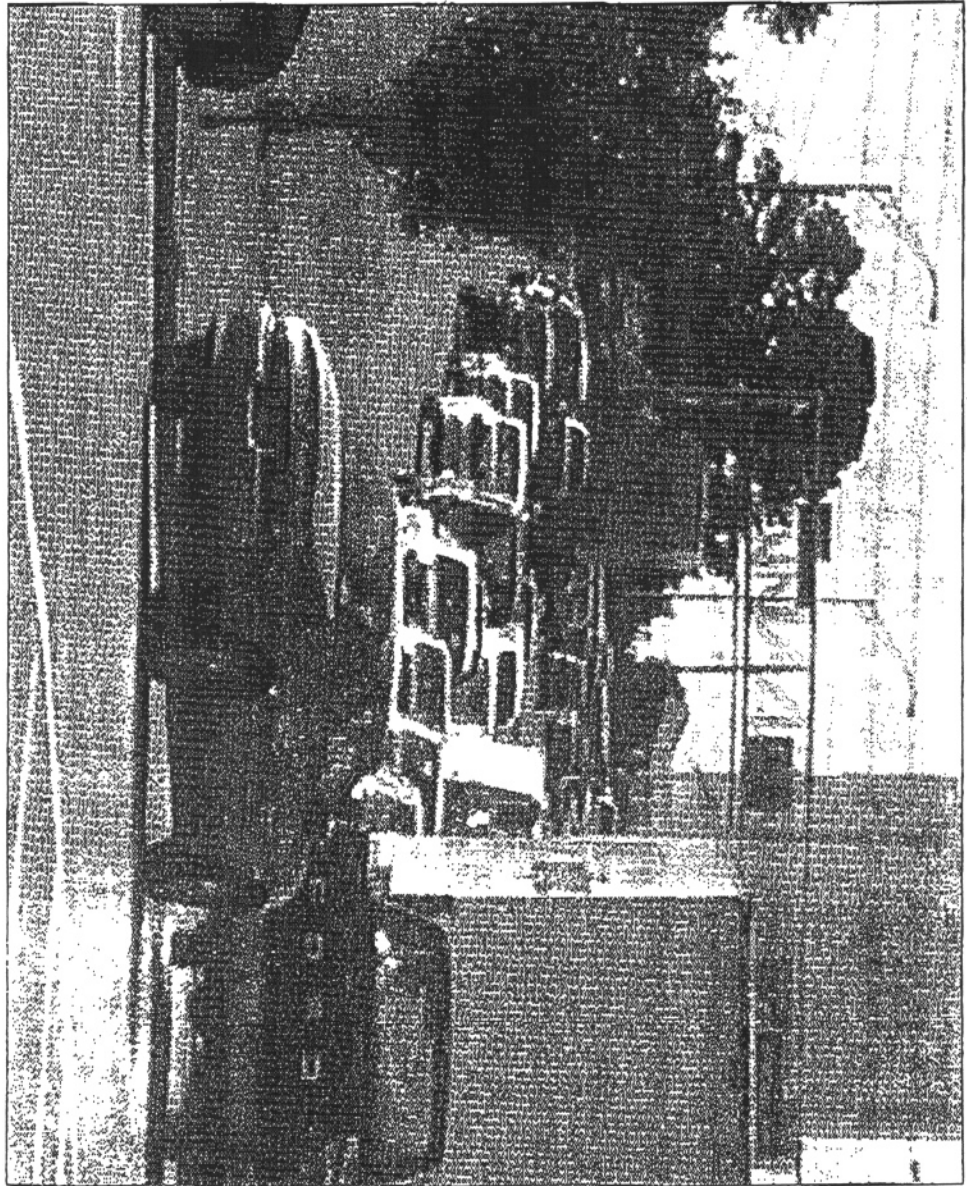
"I pretty much know what to expect, but I've never seen anything of this magnitude," said Col. Nicholas Miniotis, 46, residency director for the dental squadron and a general dentist.

"I have, unfortunately, had many occasions to do this, but nothing on this scale," Miniotis said. "You never forget it. The other experiences I can remember more clearly than what I did last week. The sights and the smells — that's going to be the hardest to deal with."

Reni Winter can be reached at 896-0538 or at rbwinter@sunherald.com.


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The extra security measures taken at Keesler Air Force Base led to some traffic back ups this week. On the I-110, cars trying to exit to Bayview Ave. to get to the base were the main factor of tie-ups, which had traffic slowed all the way to the I-10. In the photo at left, cars try to enter the I-110 from the southbound D'Iberville on-ramp.

PHOTO BY RANDY HINES





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Local News - September 15, 2001

Air Force deflates Maxwell link report

By Ken Roedl
Montgomery Advertiser

Air Force officials on Friday dismissed national television reports that two of the suspected hijackers involved in Tuesday's terrorist attacks had been students at Air War College in Montgomery.

A Pentagon spokesman told the Montgomery Advertiser Friday night that three of the suspected hijackers had names similar to the names of "foreign alumni of U.S. military courses," including the International Officer School at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. It was not clear whether the rumored Air War College connection involved those three, or other suspected terrorists. After investigating the possible connection, the Air Force found "discrepancies in their biographical data, such as birth dates 20 years off, that indicate we're probably not talking about the same people," the Pentagon spokesman said.

The three suspect names that are similar to military alumni include: Mohamed Atta, an International Officer School graduate; Abdulaziz Alomari, who graduated from the Aerospace Medical School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas; and Saeed Alghamdi, a Defense Language Institute graduate.

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The investigation, the Montgomery Advertiser learned, revealed that both foreign students were alive and "on the job" in their respective air forces. The Egyptian, who graduated from Air War College in 1999, had reported his identification and driver's license as missing.

Mike Lewis, U.S. Rep. Terry Everett's press secretary, said Everett was aware of the possible Maxwell connection, but the Enterprise Republican had not been briefed by the government.

"We haven't heard anything through government channels," Lewis said.

The Air Force spokesman said the U.S. military training of foreign nationals "teaches the foundation of armed forces within a democracy and trains allied forces in U.S. systems being adopted in their countries."

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Air War College is a 10-month course taught at Maxwell-Gunter and is the U.S. Air Force's senior school for the education of officers. The school annually educates about 250 senior officers to lead at the strategic level in the employment of aerospace forces.

International Officer School exists to prepare and support international officers and their families attending Air University schools.

Ken Roedl, a reporter for the Montgomery Advertiser, can be reached at 240-0118, or fax him at 261-1521. E-mail him at kroedl@montgomeryadvertiser.com


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Civil Air Patrol activities & 11 Sep 01 incident

Civil Air Patrol flies missions in wake of World Trade Center disaster

MAXWELL AFB, ALA.-Late Wednesday afternoon, national media reported a light aircraft flying over the World Trade Center site. That plane belonged to Civil Air Patrol, who performed those flights at the request of New York Governor George E. Pataki. The mission was just one of dozens flown across the country after Tuesday's disaster at the World Trade Center.

The flights over the World Trade Center site provided high-resolution digital images to the New York State Emergency Management Office. The photos

were delivered directly to SEMO and are being evaluated by that agency's Graphic Information Systems.

"Civil Air Patrol provided the first direct aerial perspective of the disaster site for the State of New York," says Dan O'Brien, Graphic Information Program Manager for State Emergency Management Operations center

in Albany, NY. The photos comprised a visual record of the damage in a presentation Wednesday to heads of New York's state agencies. "The photos were the first images we'd seen looking down on the site and showed debris on top of buildings and damage to roof tops."

The flight was authorized by FEMA Regional Command Center, based in Maynard,

Mass., the FAA, and the U.S. Air Force and was under the control of local air traffic controllers. The plane completed three passes over the site, once at 2,000 feet and twice at 1,300 feet, providing a direct aerial perspective that had not been documented up to that point.

Lt. Col. Jacques Heinrich, CAP, piloted the Cessna 172 while crew members Capt. Warren Ratis, CAP, and Andrew Feldman, CAP, documented the damage.

For Capt. Ratis, the flight brought some personal reflection about his former work place. "As someone who had worked on the 79th floor of tower one

for 10 years (which ended this past January), I can tell you that the loss and destruction was more than I thought imaginable."

New York Civil Air Patrol members are stationed at the SEMO, on stand-by for

further damage-assessment flights.

Civil Air Patrol volunteer members are highly trained in varied aspects of emergency services. Following are some of the missions Civil Air Patrol members have flown in the wake of the World Trade Center disaster:

- CAP volunteer members from North Carolina transported 50 cases of blood from Raleigh, NC to the American Red Cross facility in Baltimore, MD on Tuesday, 11 September.
- State officials from Florida have tasked Florida Wing CAP volunteers to monitor the many airports in the state and provide advisories to pilots at uncontrolled fields of the flight restrictions in place - 61 airports/284 CAP personnel. Florida is also providing transportation of government officials as needed.
- Volunteers in California have provided air transportation to government officials.
- Members of CAP's New Mexico Wing have been placed on alert for blood transport.
- Kentucky Wing members answered the call for help by flying blood platelets from Kentucky to New Jersey Tuesday afternoon, 11 September.
- The Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Wing of CAP flew 12 sorties and delivered 3,000 pounds of blood and medical supplies to JFK airport for delivery to Mount Sinai Hospital.
- The Idaho Wing has transported blood and medical supplies to California and Nevada for the American Red Cross.
- CAP volunteers of the Virginia Wing are manning the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- The Pennsylvania Wing is providing manpower and communications support to the Allegheny County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the FEMA mobile EOC. They are also on standby to provide aerial imaging of the crash site of the fourth plane crash to authorities.
- n Civil Air Patrol personnel from the North East Region are providing communication and coordination support to the FEMA Region 1 Region Operations Center.
- South Carolina CAP personnel are providing communications support to the State EOC.
- FEMA Region III has placed Delaware Wing members on one-hour, rapid response standby.
- The New York Wing flew a mission on Wednesday for the state to take digital photos of the disaster site in New York and is providing communications and manning support locally.
- Arizona Wing is providing communications and manning support at the state EOC.
- Georgia Wing transported robotic supplies for robots used by the US Army at the disaster site to Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts from Dobbins ARB in Georgia.
- Illinois Wing was assisting with commercial flights diverted into local airports that were not prepared to handle them and crews are on standby for additional support.
- Maryland Wing assisted North Carolina wing by providing lodging for their personnel transporting supplies to Baltimore, and is now manning the state EOC and providing communications support.
- Michigan Wing is providing manpower and communications support to the state and local EOCs.
- New Jersey Wing is providing manpower and communications support to

the state EOC and is expected to be flying real-time video missions on Thursday.

- Oregon Wing is providing transportation for blood and blood samples from Portland to Los Angeles and San Diego via relay with California Wing.
- Pacific Region has alerted each of its wings, contacted each state governor to offer support, and established command posts in each wing with aircraft and crews on alert.
- Southeast Region has alerted each of its wings to be on standby for additional support, and has personnel monitoring communications throughout the region should they be needed.
- Tennessee Wing flying camera equipment (Real-Time video system) to Trenton, NJ from McGhee-Tyson, also expected to be flying blood transport flights.
- Texas wing is fully manned at present and may be providing blood transport missions in the future.
- West Virginia Wing is providing manning and communications support to the state EOC.

Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization. It performs more than 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions in the continental United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to America's youths through CAP cadet programs.

For more information about Civil Air Patrol programs, call 1-800-FLY-2338.

CHARLOTTE M. CROWE
Chief, Communications Plans and Programs
National Headquarters Civil Air Patrol
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6332
Phone: 334-953-5320 Email: ccrowe@capnhq.gov

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Texas Governor Rick Perry due here Tuesday

By Diana Gonzales

September 17, 2001

Texas Governor Rick Perry will visit Del Rio Tuesday, Sept. 18 to talk about the border and to find out from its citizens what the area needs.

The governor will be at the Ramada Inn at 1 p.m. that day, according to Val Verde Republican Party Chairman Gene Chapman. The public is invited to meet Perry.

Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcalá; Val Verde County Judge Mike Fernandez; Ciudad Acuña Mayor Eduardo Ramon Valdez; Laughlin Air Force Base representatives; Del Rio National Bank official Vidal Gonzalez, who was a classmate of Perry's at Texas A&M University; and Del Rio Chamber of Commerce representatives also have been invited to the event.

Perry is expected to talk about the border and how he will follow the path of cooperation and friendship paved by former governor George W. Bush. Perry is visiting border cities to learn from its citizens what the border needs.

His remarks at the March 7 Governor's Trade Alliance Dinner provide a clear picture of the Governor's priorities for the Border region.

..."May it be a time of unprecedented opportunity and greater prosperity for our respective peoples. May we promote a new dialogue and seek the common good, opening the door of opportunity through the free flow of commerce, and uniting together to solve common problems and pursue mutual dreams."

..."As we look to the future, we must all seek a new day...one in which Mexican citizens can continue to take advantage of opportunities in Texas if they so choose, but not because there are few other choices...a day when opportunity is abundant from town to town, and the entrepreneurial spirit is alive in the hopes and dreams of every Mexican citizen."

..."There is strong bipartisan recognition that the border has real needs that must be addressed...there is no better time than now to roll up our sleeves and get to work."

LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

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Air Force deflates Maxwell link report

By Ken Roedel
Montgomery Advertiser

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Maxwell Page 2A

Maxwell: Student older, says official

From Page 1A

Abdulaziz Alomari, who graduated from the Aerospace Medical School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas; and Saeed Alghamdi, a Defense Language Institute graduate.

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Ken Roedel, a reporter for the *Montgomery Advertiser*, can be reached at 240-0118, or fax him at 261-1521. E-mail him at kroedel@montgomeryadvertiser.com

MAXWELL AFB, AL

Montgomery Advertiser, 15 Sept. 01, 1A/2A

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Base observes noon prayer

Ann Work

Times Record News

Twelve tolling bells announced noon prayer at Sheppard Air Force Base Friday. Two hundred Air Force personnel gathered to hear prayers from the Jewish, Islamic and Christian faith.

The prayer service was just one of a string of changes in routine around the base this week spurred by Tuesday's horrific terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Sheppard continued its stepped-up security level from Thursday, which remained at "Charlie," the second highest level.

"A major disaster took place, and the command has to respond appropriately with security levels," said Master Sgt. Jeff Szczechowski. "We don't discuss why."

Szczechowski said the base is continuing to train its student pilots. "We're carrying out our normal day-to-day mission — that's training technical students and pilots," he said.

At the Sheppard Elementary School, the normal routines are still intact, accord-

ing to principal Shannon Hill. She said she spent the week watching the students carefully for signs of stress.

"On the surface, everything seems very calm. I know the kids are picking up some stresses from the newspaper and TV. They seem a little more active. Nothing bad. They just have some pent-up energy," she said.

A field trip to River Bend Nature Works by a class of fourth graders Friday went on as planned, Hill said.

"The teachers thought it important that the kids not have the disappointment of missing that trip," Hill said.

At noon Friday, students and teachers observed a moment of quietness and prayer.

Hill said hearing her 350 students recite the Pledge of Allegiance together this week inspired her. "It was neat to hear the voices of all these children saying the pledge," she said.

Staff writer Ann Work can be reached by calling (940) 763-7538 or by e-mail at worka@wtr.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

56th Fighter Wing
Office of Public Affairs
7383 N. Litchfield Rd., Suite 1008
Luke AFB, AZ 85309

Phone - (623) 856-5853
FAX - (623) 856-6013
After duty hours - (623) 856-5800
Web site: www.luke.af.mil

RELEASE #1
September 11, 2001

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE INCREASES SECURITY

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. -- Increased security measures have been implemented here at the direction of higher headquarters as a result of incidents at other locations in the country. Access to the installation and all facilities is restricted. All customer service functions, shopping facilities and non-emergency medical appointments are closed or cancelled until further notice. Local authorities are assisting traffic flow to and around the installation. Travelers should follow directions from the Department of Public Safety. The general public and military retirees should avoid travel to and within Luke AFB. Significant delays should be expected around the base. The heightened measures are designed to protect people and resources and will be in place indefinitely. No additional information is available at this time.